

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

9. (Previously Presented) A transmitter for transmitting RF data in an RF communication network using a plurality of carrier frequencies, said RF data being represented by an information signal at a selectable carrier frequency, the transmitter comprising:

a data splitter arranged to receive said information signal modulated onto an intermediate frequency lower than the carrier frequency; and

two transmitter paths each having an input connected to the data splitter and each having a frequency converter arranged to upconvert the intermediate frequency modulated signal to a respected carrier frequency, the carrier frequency being individually selectable for each transmitter path, the transmitter being configured such that for each of the two transmitter paths, when an information signal is being transmitted on that transmitter path, the carrier frequency for transmission on the other transmitter path is being selected, such that, in each case, the carrier frequency being selected for a channel is distinct from a previous carrier frequency at which that channel is transmitted.

10. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, wherein each transmitter path includes present attenuation means located to attenuate the upconverted information signal prior to transmission.

11. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, wherein each transmitter path includes an amplifier located to amplify the upconverted, optionally attenuated, information signal prior to transmission.

12. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, wherein each transmitter path includes adjustable attenuation means for attenuating the upconverted information signal prior to transmission.

13. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, which comprises a power combiner, each transmitter path having an output connected to the power combiner.

14. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 12, which comprises power control means for controlling the adjustable attenuation means.

15. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, wherein each frequency modulator comprises a frequency generator and a signal mixer.

16. (Previously Presented) A transmitter according to claim 9, wherein the RF data is transmitted as a sequence of time slots, the data splitter being controllable to

supply the information signal of one time slot on one of the transmitter paths, and the information signal of a subsequent time slot on a subsequent transmitter path.

17. (Canceled)